Digital community at Hyderabad

290. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government can envisage a project on the lines of 'Unwire Bangalore' project for Hyderabad for an ubiquitous city-wide infrastructure for an integrated fully seamless wireless digital community;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Department of IT can extend any help to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for this venture if the State wishes to do so; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Promotion of Internet in rural areas

291. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Internet subscribers in the country, State-wise;

(b) the percentage of population having access to Internet, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to promote Internet in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) The total number of Internet subscribers as reported by Internet Service Providers (ISPs) is 7.05 million (as on 31.03.2006). These are geographically spread all over the country and registered with class A, B & C ISPs. In order to promote Inernet in rural areas, BSNL is providing Internet access on loca call basis throughout the country including rural areas. For further proliferation of Internet in